

SENATOR KEYES: How many million gallons of water a day?

SENATOR KREMER: I can't put it in gallons. There is quite a quarrel going on now about how much water that plant is going to be using. They want 27,000 acre feet. Nebraska thinks they can get along with twenty-one or twenty-two thousand. I have not converted that into gallons. This water that you are talking about there normally is in the North Platte River and comes across the state line, this is true.

SENATOR KEYES: Roughly that would be, if 180,000 gallons of water to an acre foot, it would probably be in the vicinity of 400 million gallons of water a day which I believe is right. Now how many gallons of water a day are we allowing to go out of Nebraska to the Tuttle Dam down at Fort Riley? Do you have any idea of how many gallons of water going out of the state there?

SENATOR KREMER: The total amount of water flowing out of the State of Nebraska is somewhere in the area of seven million acre feet.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes. In other words, what we are doing is permitting Nebraska to allow more water to be going out of Nebraska into Kansas and we are permitting Wyoming or Colorado, I forget which it is, to allow or permitting them to stop more water from coming into Nebraska than the City of Omaha even thinks about using in a week or a month and we are stopping that every day. If we are so interested in doing something for Nebraska and something for Omaha in the line of water, let's make certain that there is plenty of water comes into Nebraska and keeps our river full and we will have the underground water charged and let's make certain that we do not allow more water to go out of Nebraska into Kansas than we are going to use in the City of Omaha in a week, more a day than will go out in a week. These are things I think, Senator Schmit, we should concentrate on and try not to stop Omaha or Douglas County and Sarpy County from obtaining water. So I will work with you any way I can, Senator Schmit, to make certain that enough water comes in and we don't lose it, but under no circumstances do I want to permit Omaha to go thirsty in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I could not have supported, was it 604, Senator Schmit, that you brought to our attention yesterday? I am going to speak in support of raising this bill out of committee and I would like to tell you why. First of all, I would like to say that what we have before us today is a sign of more to come. I am going to point out to you areas that are of grave concern to us in Nebraska. Senator Keyes just now called our attention to it and that is the new generating plant that is being built in Wyoming known as Basin Electric. That thing is not settled. Not only do we have that issue in the State of Wyoming but we have other interests in that state that are looking at that share of Nebraska's water that is coming into the North Platte system. I am going to predict that we are going to open up the compact before these things are all settled, the compact between Wyoming